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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 1, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 26 totaled an estimated 17.9 billion ton-miles, 3.5 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 17 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 298 billion ton-miles, 7.0 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 26 totaled 454,688 cars, 9.0 percent below 1979, but 1.0 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 14.2 percent in the East, 2.7 percent in the South, and 8.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 17 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, coal loadings totaled 117,427, the second highest week since June 8, 1967, and up 6.9 percent over 1979. Thirteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 19 totaled 32,661 cars, down 13.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 59,368 trailers and/or containers, 10.7 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 16 weeks of the year was 535,134 cars, 4.2 percent lower than last year, and 971,042 trailers and/or containers, down 1.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/26/80.

	Loadings in Week ended April 26, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	25,183	I 20	0.1	D 3,946	13.5
Other farm products	3,934	I 412	11.7	I 433	12.4
Metallic ores	33,617	D 610	1.8	I 2,146	6.8
Coal	117,427	I 7,540	6.9	I 1,511	1.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,805	D 3,985	21.2	I 1,278	9.4
Nonmetallic minerals	15,632	I 419	2.8	I 535	3.5
Grain mill products	16,257	D 2,476	13.2	D 529	3.2
Food and kindred products	17,230	D 1,854	9.7	D 388	2.2
Primary forest products	19,000	D 957	4.8	I 507	2.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,245	D 4,940	37.5	I 315	4.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,778	D 987	4.5	I 365	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	29,778	D 3,109	9.5	I 2,179	7.9
Petroleum products	5,703	D 1,233	17.8	D 73	1.3
Stone, clay and glass products	15,971	D 4,296	21.2	I 77	0.5
Coke	6,269	D 1,088	14.8	D 78	1.2
Metals and products	18,381	D 5,916	24.3	D 73	0.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,206	D 10,031	35.5	I 372	2.1
Waste and scrap materials	14,110	D 1,322	8.6	D 212	1.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,167	D 2,661	19.2	I 231	2.1
All other carloads	42,784	D 7,581	15.1	D 291	0.7
LCL traffic	211	D 271	56.2	I 24	12.8
Total Cars Loaded	454,688	D 44,926	9.0	I 4,383	1.0
Corresponding week of 1979	499,614				

	1980	1979	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (17 weeks)	7,509,003	7,433,171	I 1.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
16 weeks cumulative	280.0	259.9	I 7.7
Week ended April 26	17.9	18.6	D 3.5
17 weeks cumulative	297.9	278.5	I 7.0

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